

THE WONDER OF FAITH

INTRO: In the Bible we find three words in close proximity several times. These are part of a family of words that, according to some, are “*metaphysical concepts*.” They are saying one can’t see these under the scientist’s microscope. Let’s just call them “*spiritual concepts*.”

The three words are “*faith, hope, love*.” The passage best known to us is I Cor. 13:13, but we also see them together in I Thess. 1:3; 5:8 and Col. 1:3-5.

A Little Context: When Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, he told them they did not lack any spiritual gift ie, a special gift from God- 1:7. Then he answers an apparent question, taking three chapters to do so (12-14). He begins “*Now concerning spiritual gifts...*”(12:1). Then he ends the next chapter saying that only some of these gifts would be long lasting, “*These three remain, faith, hope and love...*”

Today we will just look at the first one **FAITH** “*I know whom I have believed...*”

I) THE NECESSITY OF FAITH

A) **Heb. 11:6**

- 1) To change one’s sinful state, he must exercise FAITH.
- 2) And this is to believe in an invisible God!- I Tim. 1:7

B) **Eph. 2:8,9**

- 1) Picture this as a hand reaching upward to catch the let-down hand of God
- 2) **ILLUST:** Most Comforting Word

C) **May we be hearing and practicing that “most comforting word.”**

II) THE DEFINITION OF FAITH

A) **ILLUST:** Best Definition

- 1) Faith is as real as a hymn book, just in another realm
- 2) We must believe in God without a body, then in God with a body.
- 3) Think about Rom.1:16,17- The **content** of “*gospel*” says that God loved the world and gave His son who died and rose again triumphant. The **intent** of the gospel is that by this means we all can be saved. Yet, we have never seen any of this. The **extent** of the gospel is that we become righteous and live that way. ALL BY FAITH.

B) **Knowing That Faith Is Often Misused One Person Said This:**

- 1) “*Faith is trusting to the point of commitment*” H. Hobbs
- 2) *James reminds us of the fallacy of making faith an empty suitcase*

III) THE LIVING OUT OF FAITH

A) **The Invisible God Told Noah To Build A Large Boat**

- 1) Noah stood out as a man of faith among the mobs evil doers-Gen.6:5-10
- 2) God gave specific instructions about size, kind of wood, animals and numbers
- 3) Noah acted upon God’s instruction because he believed in God and His Word.
- 4) So Noah is a walking example of faith in God for us- **Heb. 11:7**

B) **The Invisible God Told Abraham To Leave All That Was Familiar And Go**

- 1) Thing was, he didn’t know where he was going!!!
- 2) God promised him a special land and special people:
 - (a) But this was 550 years before these things happened.
 - (b) That is faith!
- 3) Hebrews says it this way-**11:8-10**

C) **The Invisible God Told Daniel and His Friends To Hang On**

- 1) Whether it was lions or fire keep praying and keep believing
- 2) Against all odds the young men practiced their faith under adversity

3) Note: "Our God is able, but if he..."

CONCLUSION

As Usual With Wesley

A lady once asked John Wesley that suppose he were to know that he would die at 12:00 midnight tomorrow, how would he spend the intervening time. His reply: "Why madam, just as I intend to spend it now. I would preach this evening at Gloucester, and again at five tomorrow morning; after that I would ride to Tewkesbury, preach in the afternoon, and meet the societies in the evening. I would then go to Rev. Martin's house, who expects to entertain me, talk and pray with the family as usual, retire to my room at 10 o'clock, commend myself to my heavenly Father, lie down to rest, and wake up in Glory."

ILLUSTRATIONS USED IN THIS LESSON

The Most Comforting Word

Dr. Wilfred Funk who became famous as a composer of dictionaries, once was asked to list the ten most expressive words in the English language. He gave the following answer:

The most bitter word is "alone." The most reverent word is "mother." The most tragic word is "death." The most beautiful word is "love." The most cruel word is "revenge." The most peaceful word is "tranquil." The saddest word is "forgotten." The warmest word is "friendship." The coldest word is "no." The most comforting word is "faith."

Faith and Doubt

Doubt sees the obstacles.

Faith sees the way!

Doubt sees the darkest night,

Faith sees the day!

Doubt dreads to take a step.

Faith soars on high!

Doubt questions, "Who believes?"

Faith answers, "I!"

Bible Verses about God, Invisible

Colossians 1:15

Verse Concepts

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

Hebrews 11:27

Verse Concepts

By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen.

John 1:18

Verse Concepts

No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.

1 Timothy 6:16

Verse Concepts

who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.

Exodus 33:20

Verse Concepts

But He said, "You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!"

Job 9:11

Verse Concepts

"Were He to pass by me, I would not see Him; Were He to move past me, I would not perceive Him.

Job 23:8

Verse Concepts

"Behold, I go forward but He is not there, And backward, but I cannot perceive Him;

John 5:37

Verse Concepts

"And the Father who sent Me, He has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time nor seen His form.

1 Timothy 1:17

Grimsby, Jan. 11, 2015

Verse Concepts

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

1 John 4:12

Verse Concepts

No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

Romans 1:20

Verse Concepts

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

- See more at: <http://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/God,-Invisible#sthash.5Y1QSJoN.dpuf>